
By: **Senator Stone (Chairman, Ethics and Election Law Subcommittee)**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2003

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law - Facilities of Local Boards**

3 FOR the purpose of specifying that local boards of elections shall maintain an office
4 and be open for business in accordance with the direction of the State Board of
5 Elections; requiring local boards to provide certain supplies and equipment
6 considered necessary by the State Board; and generally relating to the
7 administration of elections.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article - Election Law
10 Section 2-202
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2003 Volume)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article - Election Law**

16 2-202.

17 (a) Except for the City of Baltimore, the provisions of this section do not apply
18 to a municipal corporation in the State in which the municipal or charter elections are
19 regulated by the public local laws of the State or the charter of the municipal
20 corporation.

21 (b) Each local board, in accordance with the provisions of this article and
22 regulations adopted by the State Board, shall:

23 (1) oversee the conduct of all elections held in its county and ensure that
24 the elections process is conducted in an open, convenient, and impartial manner;

25 (2) pursuant to the State Personnel and Pensions Article, or its county
26 merit system, whichever is applicable, appoint an election director to manage the
27 operations and supervise the staff of the local board;

1 (3) maintain an office and be open for business as provided in this article
2 AND AS DIRECTED BY THE STATE BOARD, and provide the supplies and equipment
3 necessary IN THE JUDGMENT OF THE STATE BOARD for the proper and efficient
4 conduct of voter registration and [election] ELECTIONS, including:

5 (i) supplies and equipment [required by the State Board]; and

6 (ii) office and polling place equipment expenses;

7 (4) adopt any regulation it considers necessary to perform its duties
8 under this article, which regulation shall become effective when it is filed with and
9 approved by the State Board;

10 (5) serve as the local board of canvassers and certify the results of each
11 election conducted by the local board;

12 (6) establish and alter the boundaries and number of precincts in
13 accordance with § 2-303 of this title, and provide a suitable polling place for each
14 precinct, and assign voters to precincts;

15 (7) provide to the general public timely information and notice, by
16 publication or mail, concerning voter registration and elections;

17 (8) make determinations and hear and decide challenges and appeals as
18 provided by law;

19 (9) (i) aid in the prosecution of an offense under this article; and

20 (ii) when the board finds there is probable cause to believe an
21 offense has been committed, refer the matter to the appropriate prosecutorial
22 authority; and

23 (10) maintain and dispose of its records in accordance with the plan
24 adopted by the State Board under § 2-106 of this title.

25 (c) In Garrett County, following each decennial census of the United States,
26 the local board shall:

27 (1) evaluate the population of the county commissioner districts to
28 determine whether the districts are of substantially equal population; and

29 (2) recommend to the Garrett County Delegation to the General
30 Assembly any adjustments of the boundaries of those districts that are necessary to
31 maintain districts of substantially equal population.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
33 October 1, 2003.